

Fort Shelby Hotel

Address: 525 W. Lafayette St.

Local

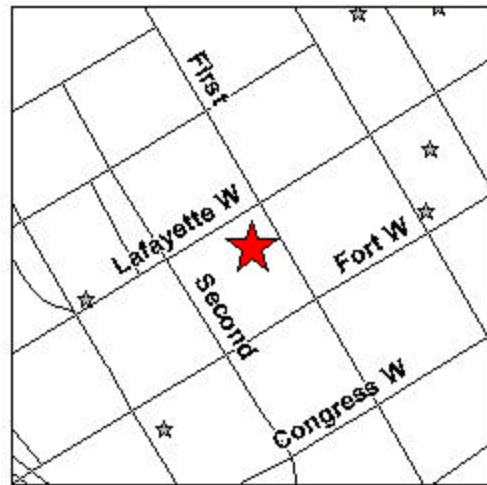
State

State Marker

National v 11/25/83



Hotel Fort Shelby
Photo courtesy of woodwardheritage.com



Historic Overview:

The Fort Shelby Hotel is significant as a fine example of early twentieth century hotel architecture in Detroit displaying the Georgian and Classical Revival styles and as an example of the work of two prominent architectural firms-Schmidt, Garden and Martin of Chicago and Albert Kahn and Associates of Detroit. The hotel is named for Fort Shelby, which stood on the site of the hotel where the British ceded the Straits of Detroit to the Americans during the War of 1812. Built in 1916, the 10-story hotel quickly became one of Detroit's busiest, so much so that a 20-story addition was built in 1927, which included club rooms, extensive public space, and catering facilities. For over 60 years the hotel was a popular institution in Detroit and famous for its catering and banquet services. The hotel is representative of a general building type constructed during a relatively short but active period (1915-1935) in Detroit's construction history. This boom period gave rise to numerous brick and stone high-rise office buildings and hotels that to this day give Detroit its distinctive masonry towered skyline.

Text from woodwardheritage.com